

*Sphaerocera scabricula* Hal. (Dipt., Sphaeroceridae) recaptured near London. — On September 8th last I found a male of this very rare fly in damp mouldy grass-cuttings in my garden at Charlton, N.W. Kent, not accompanied by others of the genus but by numbers of a small species of *Leptocera* or *Limosina* (s. lat.) not yet determined. The *Sphaerocera* was easily identified from Richards, O.W., 1930, *Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* 18: 316, once it was realised that there must be an error in the key (*l.c.*); this may be corrected by transposing the words 'longer' and 'shorter' in the two parts of couplet 5 — referring to the marginal teeth of the scutellum. In *scabricula* these teeth are short, blunt and inconspicuous, whereas in the very common *parapusilla* Duda (= *vaporariorum* Hal. sensu Rich.) and its two nearest allies, they are quite strongly developed. The characters of the head and eyes that distinguish *scabricula* from these species are immediately obvious, and to them may be added proportionately shorter and more rounded wings and much shorter tarsi with none of the segments after the first longer than broad; in fact the legs appear altogether shorter, and — in this example at least — the size is very small for this genus, but the build robust. The reduced eyes suggest a concealed mode of life, e.g. underground in nests or runs of small mammals, as often in this family. The sample of material in which the fly occurred was in contact with the ground, but data appear to be lacking for the few previous captures.

This find seems to be only the second for the metropolitan area in 140 years, the species having been described from near London by Haliday in 1836. Richards (*l.c.*: 318) had seen two females from Newmarket, Suffolk (Collin, 1896), and mentions further a specimen from King's Lynn, Norfolk (Atmore, 1918); I have seen no later records. On the Continent it seems almost equally rare — unless, of course, a change has taken place in the status of the species since Prof. Richards wrote his monograph. — A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, London SE7 8QG: February 22nd, 1976.

*Thalassophilus longicornis* (Sturm) (Col., Carabidae) in Caernarvonshire. — This very scarce beetle was taken in Wales at a comparatively early period, a fact unnoticed in either of the relevant volumes (1 and 6) of Fowler (*Col. Br. Islands*, 1887, 1913); furthermore, there is no record for a Welsh county in Moore (1957, *Entomologist's Gaz.* 8(3): 175). Probably, therefore, the record was never published. It is based on the single representative in G.C. Champion's British collection, labelled 'Bettws-y-Coed/N. Wales/Brewer's' with no date indicated. A single example was captured in the principality by Mr. Colin Johnson at Maentwrog, Merioneths. in 1967 (1969, *Entomologist's Gaz.* 20(3): 156). — A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, London SE7 8QG: February 23rd, 1976.

Further British records for *Aleochara diversa* Sahlb. and *A. stichai* Lik. (Col., Staphylinidae). — In January 1976 I found a male *A. diversa* Sahlb. in wood mould from the interior of an old oak tree in Ashstead Common, Surrey (TQ16). The identification has been confirmed by Dr. Colin Welch to whom I am most grateful. In March, I found two more males at the same site. One had been attracted to a 'bird's nest' trap (Owen, 1976, *Proc. Br. ent. nat. Hist. Soc.* 9: 34-5) baited with chicken dung and the other was found in a small heap of old bones. Both were accompanied by males and females of *A. sparsa* Heer. The site was old oak woodland.

I set up four 'bird's nest' traps at Invergarry, Inverness, (NH20) on the 9th July 1976 and collected them two weeks later. Among the beetles present were 6 *Aleochara* of which 5 (4 males, 1 female) proved to be *A. sparsa* and 1 male was *A. stichai* Lik. The site was birch-oak woodland.

Records for either species in Britain are few. Some are given by Welch (1969, *Entomologist* 102: 231-4) and by Allen (1969, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 105: 277). The Surrey site is a well worked locality but it may be that *A. diversa* has avoided detection simply because it closely resembles *A. sparsa*. Alternatively it may turn out to be a mainly winter species and this is why it has escaped notice. The attraction of *A. stichai* to a 'bird's nest' trap is interesting in view of its occurrence in a sparrow hawk's nest in Rothiemurchus, Inverness, (Welch, 1969). — J.A. OWEN, 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey: September 23rd, 1976.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE LIST OF BRITISH  
PROCTOTRUPOIDEA AND CERAPHRONOIDEA (HYM.)

BY N.D.M. FERGUSON

During preparation of the revised British Check List of Proctotrupeoidea and Ceraphronoidea some problems were found which are dealt with below.

A large number of changes have occurred since the publication of the first edition of the Check List by Kloet & Hincks in 1945. The Proctotrupeoidea s.l. have been split into the Proctotrupeoidea and the Ceraphronoidea. (It is possible that the Scelionidae plus the Platygasteridae will be accepted as a super-family in the future.) Many tribes appear in the new list for the first time as well as a considerable amount of synonymy.

In the British Museum (Natural History) collection there are named British specimens of several species previously unrecorded from Britain. I am publishing here only those determinations that I can confirm.

## PROCTOTRUPOIDEA

## DIAPRIIDAE

*Acanosema* Kieffer, 1908*Cardiopsilus* Kieffer, 1908

In 1957 Nixon made *Cardiopsilus* Kieffer, 1908 a junior synonym of *Acanosema* Kieffer, 1908. Hellén (1964) placed *Acanosema* under *Cardiopsilus* because of the page priority of the latter. As Nixon was the "first reviser" (Article 24 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature) his arrangement must stand.

*Paramesius westwoodi* nom. nov.*Paramesius rufipes* Westwood, 1832 nec (Fonscolombe, 1832)

Dessart (1966) transferred *Teleas rufipes* Fonscolombe, 1832 to *Paramesius*, creating secondary homonymy with *Paramesius rufipes* Westwood, 1832. Both works were produced in parts, Westwood's paper is dated August 1832 and Fonscolombe's paper occurs in the part dated July 1832. I have not been able to find any available synonym for *rufipes* Westwood, therefore as it is a junior homonym, the name *rufipes* Westwood is rejected and replaced with the name *westwoodi*.

## PLATYGASTRIDAE

Several species of Platygasteridae which in the first edition of the Check List (Kloet & Hincks, 1945) were attributed to Walker, have in the new Check List been cited as "Haliday in Walker, 1835". This is because Walker (1835 p. 228) states that "Mr. Haliday by the loan of his MSS. and collection, contributed much of the following descriptions" and in the text these descriptions are designated as "Haliday MSS." (I.C.Z.N. Article 51c.)

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*Platygaster contorticornis* Ratzeburg, 1844

New to the British List. Two males from Cumberland, Edenhall, 18.iv.27, ex. Spruce cones, H. Britten col. Determined by Waterston. Three males and three females from Staffordshire, Maey Woods, 21.iv.1936, H.W. Daltry, ex. Spruce cones. Determined by me in 1976. Five females from Blandford [Dorset], 7.v.36, P.H. [P. Harwood], Bred from Spruce cones. Determined by Nixon in 1936. This species has been previously recorded from France, Germany (West), Norway, Sweden, Finland and U.S.S.R.

*Iphitrachelus gracilis* Masner, 1957

New to the British list. One male from Buckingham, Burnham Beeches, 25.viii.1974, collected and determined by Z. Bouček. I have compared this male with specimens, named by Masner, from the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) and the Manchester Museum. This species has been previously recorded from Bohemia, Slovakia and Sweden (Masner, 1958). The two British species can be separated by using the key in Masner (1976).

## SCELIONIDAE

*Telenomus* Haliday, 1833

*Homophanurus* Kieffer, 1912 syn. nov.

Kieffer (1912) made *Telenomus hofmanni* Mayr, 1880 the type-species by monotypy of a new genus *Homophanurus*. In 1926 Kieffer placed *hofmanni* in *Telenomus*, thus *Homophanurus* is a generic synonym of *Telenomus*.

## CERAPHRONOIDEA

## CERAPHRONIDAE

*Aphanogmus steinitzi* Priesner, 1936

New to the British list. Five males and four females from Berkshire, Silkwood Park, February 1966, ex. Coniopterygidae (Neuroptera) cocoons. Collected by T.R. New, determined by Dessart in 1967. The specimens described by Priesner from Palestine were also from Coniopterygidae cocoons. This appears to be only the third record of the species, Agekian (1975) having bred it from *Conwentzia psociformis* (Curt.) (Coniopterygidae) in the U.S.S.R.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Dr. Bouček for the specimen of *Iphitrachelus gracilis*, Dr. Fitton and Mr. Huddleston for checking this manuscript and Dr. Nixon for checking the gender of names, both here and in the Check List.

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*Survival of Tipula paludosa* (Dipt., Tipulidae) larvae after infection with larvae of *Megaselia paludosa* (Dipt., Phoridae). — Fourteen fourth-instar Tipulidae larvae were sampled from a wet field at Cockle Park Farm in Northumberland on 13.6.74. Twelve of the larvae were *Tipula paludosa* Meigen, and two were *Tipula unca* Wiedemann. Three of the *T. paludosa* larvae were infected with phorid larva. One of them was dissected the following day and in its haemocoel were found three phorid larvae displaying regular contractions of the body wall.

The remaining two infected larvae were kept in individual Petri dishes at 20°C. Six days after collection from the field, two phorid pupae were found in one of the dishes, and seven in the other; a further phorid pupa was found in the latter dish two days later. Adults emerged from the pupae about nine days after they appeared. The two host larvae were apparently unharmed, except that the one from which eight phorids emerged had some black scar tissue between the anus and the spiracular disc. It is not known whether this resulted from the phorid infection. Fourteen days after the appearance of the phorid pupae the host larvae were sacrificed and autopsied. At that time they both still appeared normal and healthy.

I am grateful to Mr. K.G.V. Smith who identified the phorid larvae and adults as *Megaselia paludosa* (Wood), which was first recorded as a parasite of *T. paludosa* by Coggins, R.E., 1970, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 106: 108.

A similar larval parasite was found associated with the fat body of a fourth-instar larva of *Tipula luna* Westhoff taken from the same site on 10.1.74. — J.B. CARTER, Biology Department, Liverpool Polytechnic, Byrom Street, Liverpool L3 3AF: August 10th, 1976.